



Southwest Conference of MAYORS

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyborn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

One of the main reasons that the Southwest Conference of Mayors exists is because we know the power of being connected. We are an intergovernmental agency that provides technical assistance and joint services to 21 municipalities representing a population of more than 350,000 in southwest suburban Cook County. Without the ability and commitment to share information, we could never succeed and our citizens would suffer.

That same philosophy applies to every family, community, city, state, our nation – and more than ever that connectivity is provided by the Internet. We are delighted with the pace of broadband expansion in our own community, and look forward to the day in which every person in our suburbs enjoys the benefits of easy access.

We are puzzled why some members of the FCC do not see things the same way as those of us on the front lines of our communities. No one is pretending everything is perfect, but when it comes to Internet access, progress has been amazing, and we are confident it will continue without burdensome and short-sighted regulation.

The residents in our suburbs, like most Americans, are also having to deal with financial turmoil and increased joblessness. Adopting policies that would in all likelihood increase their costs to Internet access would be unfair and unjust to those who would most depend on the Internet and its capabilities to help them get back on their feet.

Don't penalize us. Help us stay connected.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicky Matyas-Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vicky Matyas-Smith
Executive Director

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City of Blue Island
Village of Bridgeview
City of Burbank
Village of Chicago Ridge
Village of Crestwood
Village of Evergreen Park
City of Hickory Hills
City of Hometown
Village of Justice
Village of Lemont
Village of Merrionette Park
Village of Oak Lawn
Village of Orland Hills
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